THE

SPEECH

Of His GRACE

GEORGE

EARL OF

MELVILL,

Their *Majesties* HIGH COMMISSIONER;

At the Opening of the Second Session of the First Parliament of Their *Majesties* Antient Kingdom of *SCOTLAND*.

The 15th *of* April, 1690.

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THE SPEECH OF THE LORD KEEPER, AT THE OPENING OF THE SESSION OF PARLIAMENT, ON TUESDAY THE 19th OF APRIL, 1625.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THis Seſſion of Parliament had been Honoured with the Preſence of my Royal Maſter, had not the great weight of Affairs on his Hand, the Meeting of the Parliament of *England*, and the deſigned expedition into *Ireland*, deprived you of that Happineſs and Satisfaction He really intended for you.

And tho He ſtill Reſolves, ſo ſoon as His Important Affairs can allow Him, to Viſit this His Antient Kingdom; Yet ſuch a regard hath he to what may be for the Satisfaction of His People, that He would no longer delay your Meeting, for giving ſuch a Settlement to this Nation, as may be a real Security to its moſt valuable Concerns of True Religion, and Juſt Liberties.

Can you reflect upon the great Things that He (as the Inſtrument in the Hand of God) hath done for you? Can you think of thoſe Eminent Dangers, to which (when living in the greateſt Honour, Plenty and Peace) He did ſo magnanimouſly expoſe Himſelf for the Reſcuing you from theſe greateſt of evils, Popery, and Slavery; and Delivering you from the Fears you were ready to ſink under, and not chearfully concur in doing all things that may be for the Satisfaction, and Safety of your Deliverer, when Linked ſo much with your own Intereſt?

I believe there are few true *Proteſtants*, and good Countreymen who would not give freely the half of their Eſtates, for ſo great a *Bleſſing*, were it yet to be purchaſed.

His Deſires are Confined unto, and Regulated by your true Intereſt: He Demands a Subſidie, but it is only what is neceſſary for your Safety, the Securing of what is deareſt to you, and the Support of the Government; He hath ſpared no expenſe hitherto, for your Protection; and it is but reaſonable, He ſhould now have your effectual Aſſiſtance; let it never be the *Stain* of our Nation, that the beſt of our Kings was the worſt Treated.

He refuſeth nothing that can be juſtly demanded, His uncontraverted *Rights* are only Valued by Him, as they are uſeful for your Good and Security.

I am Commanded by the King (my Lords and Gentlemen) to tell you, That as He *Reſolves* to live and die in the ſincere profeſſion of the True Proteſtant *Religion*; For the maintainance whereof, He is again about to expoſe His *Royal Perſon*, ſo He is willing to concur with you, for the Settlement of Church and State, upon ſuch ſolid Foundations, as you need not again fear a relapſe into your former evils.

He is ready to give His *Royal* Aſſent to what in Juſtice can be propoſed to Him, for Securing *Religion*, Liberty and Property, from all future Encroachments; and for Redreſſing of other Grievances, and you cannot with reaſon demand any thing, which He is not willing to grant.

His Majeſty offers Redreſs to the oppreſſed, Pardon and Peace to ſubmitting Enemies, and protection to all His good Subjects.

I am further Impowered by His Majeſty, to give *His* Royal Burrows, ſuch Encouragement and Redreſs in the matter of Trade, and ſuch eaſe, in relation to the proportion of their Burdens, as the Parliament ſhall think fit.

What then remains, but that you behave with ſuch Zeal for the Good of your Countrey, as to its *Religious* and Civil Concerns, and the Honour of your Prince, as this Seſſion of Parliament may have an Iſſue, which may be to the ſatisfaction of both.

I ſhould be injurious to you to doubt of this, or to think you need any perſwaſions, to ſet about theſe things effectually, which are ſo much your own concern.

You know the eyes of thoſe whom you repreſent, as alſo of your Neighbours, and even of your Enemies, are upon you; expecting what may be the reſult of your Meeting?

ing: In which the King's Allays, as well as all His Subjects, and our Protestant Friends abroad are not a little concerned.

You need not that I recommend to you the laying aside all Animosities, Picques, and Quarrels, and shunning all occasions of Contention, seing this is so much your own Interest, and that you will endeavour to evidence to the World, that it is not privat, or selfish Designs, but Zeal for God and the true Religion, and love to your King and Countrey, which influence you.

I wish there may be many found amongst you in this meeting, like those who represented the Tribe of *Issachar* for setling the Kingdom in the Hands of *David*; men who had understanding of the times to know what *Israel* ought to do.

I hope you will not take it ill, that *I* mind you of that usefull precept of the Apostle, Let your Moderation be known unto all *Men*; for the unfriends of our Nation have taken occasion to reproach us more for the vehemence of our temper, than any thing else.

As for *My* Self, My Lords and Gentlemen, (whom His Majesty hath honoured with a Character far above my Ambition) I shall not say much, having no design before my Eyes, but the Publick Good, and what is clearly your own interest. I have no Apology to make as having been either an Actor in, or Complyer with what hath been grievous to you, or prejudicial to the Nation; I hope my Deportment and Sufferings the bypast part of my Life will, (at least ought to) secure me from all Suspitions of being a Promover of Arbitrary Power; and I am sure my Master whom I serve, is far from designing or desiring any such thing, whatever His or Our Enemies may suggest.

I acknowledge that what Trust His Majesty hath been pleased to Confer upon me, is above my Strength; but it shall be my endeavour to supply my other Defects, by an intire Faithfulness to the King my Master, a sincere respect to you, and a zealous application for promoting of the true Religion, and Common-good of all.

FINIS.